

North Kent Lotus Group

Dear Enthusiast

That's the trouble with Lotus, you wait years for a new one to come along and then five turn up all at once.

.....Not much point going into too much detail here as there's been plenty of publicity, but just to recap - we have the long awaited Esprit due in 2013 with a five litre V8, 205mph top speed for a £110k price tag; the expected revamped Elise for 2015, two litre four-pot 0-62 in 4.3 seconds for £35,000; a new Elite due in 2014, five litre V8 again - £113k with a 195mph top speed; and finally, very two surprising announcements, a new Elan for 2013 and a brand new "sedan" - the Eterne for 2015. The Elan will be four litre V6 with a 0-62 of 3.5 seconds, 193mph top speed and hefty price tag of £75,000. The Eterne - five litre V8, four seater 195mph, £190k.

Of course, with the pricing you must multiply by ten, add on 450, divide by 6.3 then add the first number that comes into your head to reach the final on the road price.

And if all that wasn't enough there's a "city" car; an LMP2 Le Mans contender for 2012; updated versions of the Evora, with GT2 & 3 customer cars.

I'm sure I saw something about some roller skates somewhere. Well, let's hope it elevates Lotus as the true world supercar producer it should be - get the politics of the F1 name/logo sorted and that'll complete the picture.

Anyway, back down to earth - apologies for last month, I forgot to welcome new member, Tim Jones from Hadlow with an S4 Elan. So a big welcome.

John H has supplied what could be the beginnings of a new monthly quiz "Harpers Mystery Photo" competition. No prizes - just a pat on the back - I don't think the first one's a Lotus, it looks like something from Mothercare. I've stuck the photo on the back of the Christmas booking form -

we could perhaps have a prize for the correct answer at the meal and how about one for the most amusing? We'll see.

We've had "Harpers Hunt" and the follow-up Vino run since the last meeting. I should have a full report on HH next month. As for the Vino run, it was down on numbers - just three cars on the run with Simon & Pat and Roger & Chrissie joining us (Jon & Michelle, Terry and Sue & me) for another lovely lunch at Chapel Down. So a many thanks to J&M for arranging it all and once again finding us some nice empty roads.

That brings me to the last two events for this year; an informal meet-up at Brands for the Lotus 1000KM and the Christmas meal.

The 1000KM starts at 9 so I aim to get there around 8.30. If anybody wants to meet-up give me a ring. It's the first six hour (or longer?) race at Brands in over 20 years.

And the Christmas meal; menu and booking details are all included, so please send your form to John or see Joan or John at the November club night.

Now, you're the first to know that Howard has his Caterham up for sale, so if you're interested or you know anybody who's looking for one, please give him a ring (number over the page) - great winter motoring!

Neil sent a snippet from Club Lotus following on from the cancellation of the parts fair this year. Alan Morgan is proposing a huge weekend gathering at Donnington with Lotus on Track, including a track day on the Friday, the Elise Trophy racing over the weekend and the Lotus Festival in the Exhibition Centre including camping and possibly entertainment/bbq on the Saturday night. This would move the annual show to an August date instead of the usual spring slot. Sounds very interesting - lets hope Alan can pull it off.

A smallish turn out for the club night, but then again four of us were having a great time with Joe Bonamasser so that reduced the numbers! Frank had moved the pool table and the evening was much more sedate than of late so that was good. The next club night at the White Rock is on 10th November but I hope to see you at the Lotus 1000km on the 6th. Also, Has anybody thought about taking a trip up to the NEC Classic Car Show?..... See you next month.



John

BRANDS "A DAY OF TWO HALVES"

Up early to check the weather forecast, did not look good. The Morning was to be sunny, then a rainy front coming in at lunch time. (Who buys a car with no roof!!)

The Fury was ready as I had done all the checks the night before, full tank and jerry can. I picked up my helmet and driving licence and went to Brand's.

Parked up in one of the garages as I thought I would need it later on! The chap next to me had a Caterham R400 so I started chatting with Joe, turned out he lived in Coney Hall (very close to my parents)

Went to sign on and have the driver's briefing at 8.30am. Then we were out on track following the course car for a couple of laps. Then off we went, cautious at first as I had put different tyres on the back and I had not driven hard on them so did not know what to expect. Managed to have four good half hour sessions before lunch, the Fury did not misbehave and the new tyres felt good.

Sat down to have lunch and watch the rain get heavier and heavier, there had been some spots during my last session, but the track had been dry.

By the time lunch was over the rain was in for the rest of the day. I decided to take the Fury out, tip toed around at first by slowly gained confidence (no nasty moments), only problem was I was getting wet and it was not as much fun as the morning. Joe in his Caterham did not venture on track, I do not blame him it is easy to lose it and bend the car (airfield days have more run off areas).

By mid afternoon Joe and I decided to call it quits and go home. I got quite wet going from Brand's to West Kingsdown (1 mile) with a windscreen, so I cannot imagine what Joe was like by the time he got back to Coney Hall with no windscreen or Side screens.

Only two casualties that I know of, one was a nice Aston Martin DB7, which by the amount of anti-freeze on the garage floor had obviously got very hot! (Head gasket? Ouch!).

The second car was an old Nissan SX200 (I think). It was interesting as there were three guys driving it and when I had a chat they co-owned and ran it. They had stripped everything out of it and were running it on a shoe string. The first problem they had was locking brakes, I had seen this first hand as I had been behind them as one of them locked up big time going into Paddock Hill, some how he got round the corner!

When I went back after the session they had the rear wheels off and one of the chaps was filing the rear discs. I asked what had happened and they said that the rear discs had got hot and had "Picked up" something on the discs but it was entertaining watching someone filing a hot disc! (I wonder what the "run out" on the discs were afterwards?)

Next time I saw them they were about to put the car on its trailer. This time no compression on any of the cylinders! They seem to enjoy what time they had had, and after all that's what it's about!

I had a great day so did Trudi my passenger (one of my technician's) she managed to get a ride with Joe and another chap.



The car went well and went home in one piece! Although a bit wet. Hope to see some of you guy's there next time.

MAGNUS

THE WHITE ROCK INN, UNDERRIVER

CHRISTMAS MENU 2010

1. Chefs Courgette, Sunblushed Tomato & Basil Soup. Served with a Hot Seed Roll. ✓
2. Grilled Goats Cheese & Black Forest Ham (optional) Drizzled with a Balsamic Dressing.
3. Trio of Sliced Smoked Fish Garnished with Salad & Brown Bread & Butter.
4. Spinach & Mushroom Tagliatelle In a Four Cheese Sauce, Garnished with Roasted Walnuts (optional) ✓

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1. Local Free Range Turkey Breast with Pork Chipolatas wrapped in Bacon, Sage & Onion Stuffing & Turkey Gray.
2. Halibut Steak Pan Fried with Fennel Seeds, Finished with a Pastis Butter.
3. Pheasant Breast Stuffed with Wild Mushroom Duxelle on a Crouton with Pate & Madeira Sauce.
4. Beef Fillet on Roast Sweet Potato Topped With Stilton & Served with a Red Wine Sauce.
5. Vegetable & Nut Roast en Croute with Red Onion Marmalade, Served on a Pool of Sweet Red Pepper Sauce. ✓

All Served with Seasonal Vegetables.

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1. Traditional Christmas Pudding Served with Brandy Custard. ✓
2. Chefs Meringue with Whipped Cream & Soft Red Fruits. ✓
3. Chocolate Mocca Cheesecake Served with Cream. ✓
4. Homemade Passion Fruit Sorbet ✓
5. Cheese & Biscuits (A Choice of 2 from Cheddar, Stilton, Brie & Smoked) ✓

———— Coffee and Mince Pie ✓ ————

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£24.95

Service Not Included

**CHEQUES PAYABLE TO J. UNDERHAY PLEASE ~ CLOSING DATE 20th NOVEMBER**



## Harpers Mystery Photo Competition

What's the car??